

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

1. During the years 1946 to 1949, Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, original inhabitants of the Memel Territory, and even Russians were deported from Klaipeda, Lithuanian SSR. Source believes the latter were deported for political reasons. Those who were deported for political reasons were mostly sent to work in mines. No consideration was given to children or to elderly persons. Those who died were merely covered with earth. Many took poison or hanged themselves to escape the torments.

2.

3. Regular periodic deportations stopped in 1950, and it was rumored that this happened because of a note received from America. Actually, only the method of

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deportations was changed. Now, lists of deportees are made up and are called "Lists of People Looking for Work". Names of Russians are also included in these lists. The last deportation known to source took place 8 to 10 October 1951. Rumors have been heard that it is time for the Klaipeda fishermen to go to the Black Sea to "acquaint" themselves with the "superior" methods of the USSR fishermen and that their places in Klaipeda will be taken by individuals from central Russia. Everyone realizes that this may well be a slogan to camouflage deportations. Source was told by MGB employees that it is unusual for Soviet citizens to live more than five years in the same border zone.

Population Movements

4. For persons attempting to leave Lithuania (for Germany, for example), difficulties are occasioned by one's place of birth. The Soviets consider anyone who was born in Memel (now Klaipeda) or in the Memel Territory as Lithuanian. They do not oppose the reuniting of families, but they prefer that relatives in Western Germany join their families in Klaipeda. Such relatives can apply through the Red Cross directly to the German Consulate in Moscow. Anyone having Soviet approval may come to Klaipeda; persons who return from Germany are not punished. In 1948 a large transport arrived from Germany containing persons who had gone to Germany in 1944. The returnees were met with speeches and were shown hospitality. Those who had had apartments went back to them. Nevertheless, the returnees were very sorry they had come back and, when there was an opportunity to register for repatriation to Germany, they were the first to sign up. However, Germans who were born in Memel and who returned to Klaipeda after the war have difficulty when trying to go back to Germany. The Soviets point out to the returnees that, having returned voluntarily, they cannot expect the Soviets to pay their way back. When a person says that he wants to return to Germany to join his relatives, he is told that there is nothing preventing the relatives from coming to Klaipeda.

5. If a person can prove that he was born in Germany or in East Prussia, he has an opportunity to leave Lithuania. To do so, he must obtain permission to live in the German Democratic Republic and he needs a declaration that he will be able to make a living there. These documents must be in the German and Russian languages and have both German and Russian stamps on them. A personal questionnaire, a short autobiography, and four photographs must be submitted. The person's passport is also checked. Everything is made as difficult as possible. Repatriates to Germany are handled very carefully. When a transport is ready to leave for Germany, conditions are very good. Old clothes are exchanged for new ones and such a large quantity of food is provided for the trip that repatriates could live on it for some time after their arrival in Germany. Repatriates receive 10 to 100 rubles, depending on the size of the family. Transports are guarded to prevent persons from escaping. Several persons succeeded in escaping from the transport in May 1951. They were mostly young people who did not want to return to Germany. Of the 1,150 persons in the May 1951 transport, about 75 percent remained in the Soviet Zone of Germany. Soviet officials announced that the May 1951 transport was to be the last.

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